



Applying for the 2024 Mandela Washington Fellowship



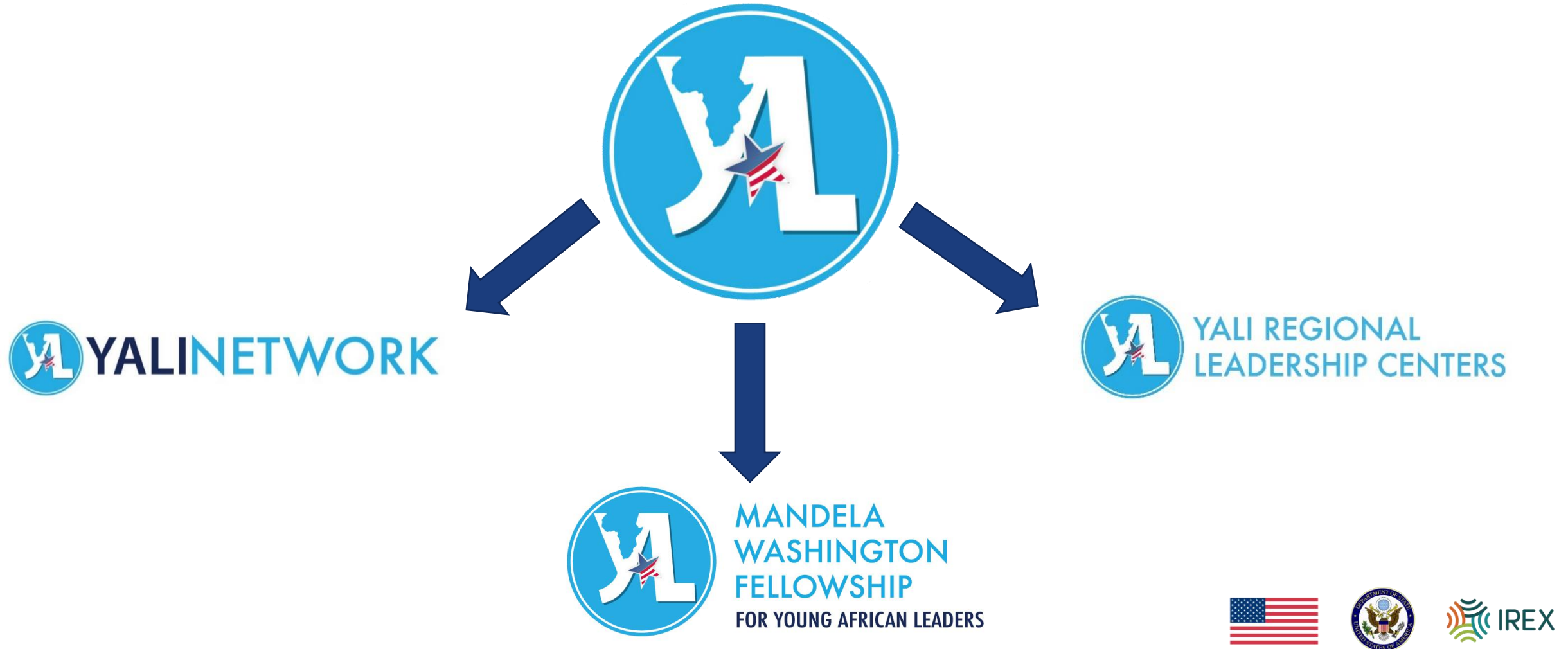
MANDELA
WASHINGTON
FELLOWSHIP
FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS



Agenda

- 1 Program Overview
- 2 Fellowship Provisions
- 3 Eligibility and Selection Criteria
- 4 Application Information

Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Overview



Local U.S. Embassy Point of Contact

U.S. Embassy Maputo

E-mail: MaputoExchangePrograms@state.gov

Phone: +258 84 095 8000

Mandela Washington Fellowship Introduction

- Started in **2014**
- Empowers young people (**age 25-35**)
- Includes academic coursework, leadership training, and networking
- 2024 application will launch on **August 15**
- Values **diversity** and **inclusion** in every sense
- **Alumni Network** of nearly 6,500 Fellowship Alumni
- **No fee** to apply for or participate



Leadership Institutes

- 700 Fellows selected
- Six-week, intensive program
- Placed at 28 Leadership Institutes across the United States
- Three tracks
 - Business
 - Civic Engagement
 - Public Management



Leadership Institute Tracks Overview

Leadership in Business	Leadership in Civic Engagement	Leadership in Public Management
Subthemes <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Innovation and technology■ Emerging markets and youth population in Africa■ Business plan development■ Financial management■ Business ethics■ Intersection of business with civil society and government and the role of private/public partnerships	Subthemes <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Advocacy■ Strategic planning■ Organizational development■ Intersection of civil society with business and government	Subthemes <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Citizen engagement■ Resource management■ Financial management systems■ Intersection of government with business and civil society

Leadership Institutes

Each Institute features several core components:

- Academic Coursework
- Leadership Training
- Ignite Talks
- Site Visits
- Cultural Visits
- Collaborative Relationships
- Community Service
- Unscheduled Networking Time

Each Institute is unique and will feature different topics and activities!



The Summit

- Concluding event
- All 700 Fellows participate
- Networking and panel discussions with U.S. leaders from public, private, and non-profit sectors

Professional Development Experience (PDE)

- Four-week placement at U.S. NGO, business, or government agency
- Submit supplemental application essay to apply
- Gain practical training, learn transferable skills, expand networks, apply concepts
- Up to 100 Fellows selected



Alumni Opportunities & Resources

- **LINC Grants** provide Fellowship Alumni with funding for professional collaboration with others in the Alumni Network.
- The **Reciprocal Exchange** component is a great opportunity to keep in mind while networking in the United States.
- The Fellowship leverages stakeholder expertise to deliver a suite of **Virtual Programming** for Fellowship Alumni and selected candidates.
- The U.S. Department of State's **International Exchange Alumni** community is a valuable grant and networking resource.



Fellowship Provisions

- J-1 visa support;
- Round-trip travel from Fellow's home city to the United States;
- Domestic U.S. travel as required by the program;
- A six-week Leadership Institute;
- A concluding Summit;
- A limited accident and sickness benefit plan (ASPE);
- Housing and meals during the program; and
- An optional four-week Professional Development Experience (for up to 100 Fellows).

The Fellowship **does not** include:

- × Funds to supplement Fellow income;
- × Baggage fees in excess of the standard amount;
- × Medical co-payments and expenses not covered by ASPE; or
- × High-tech devices such as full-feature smartphones, tablets, or laptops.

Visa Regulations

- All participants receive a J-1 visa
- 30-day grace period for return travel after program ends
- Program participants must return to their home countries for at least two years upon program completion
- No paid employment during the program
- Dependents may not join participants on program
- No visa transfers or extensions will be given





Eligibility

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is open to young African leaders who are:

- Between the **ages of 25 and 35**, although exceptional applicants ages 21-24 will be considered
- **Not U.S. citizens** or permanent residents of the United States
- Eligible to receive a United States **J-1 visa**
- **Not employees** or immediate family members of employees of **the U.S. Government**
- Proficient in reading, writing, and speaking **English**
- **Citizens and residents** of an eligible country
- **Not Alumni** of the Mandela Washington Fellowship

Eligible Countries

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Cabo Verde
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Comoros
- Republic of the Congo
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Djibouti
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- The Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

What Makes an Ideal Mandela Washington Fellow?

- Record **of leadership and accomplishment**
- Demonstrated **commitment to public or community service**
- Ability to **work cooperatively** in diverse groups
- Strong **social and communication skills**;
- Knowledge, interest, and professional experience in the **preferred sector/track**; and
- A **commitment to return to Africa and contribute skills and talents** to build and serve their communities

Fellowship Accommodations: Disability Support

The Mandela Washington Fellowship:

- Is committed to ensuring that Africa's young leaders with disabilities can fully participate
- Will provide reasonable accommodations that will allow for a full and engaging experience
- More Info:
mwfellows.info/2024DisabilityFAQs



Fellowship Accommodations: Pregnancy Support

- Applicants who are pregnant or who may become pregnant are encouraged to apply.
- Pre-natal support is available during Fellowship.
- Fellows who are **less than 20 weeks pregnant** by the start of the Fellowship can expect to be able to fully participate in the program.
- More Info: mwfellows.info/2024PregnancyFAQs

How to Apply

- The application is open from **August 15 – September 12, 2023.**
- The application will request your:
 - Basic information (name, address, phone, email, and countries of citizenship and residence);
 - CV/Résumé information;
 - Personal statements (four short-response and two long-response);
 - Previous U.S. experience; and
 - English language proficiency.

mwfellows.info/apply

Preparing a Strong Application

- **Don't procrastinate!** Applications are due Tuesday, September 12, 2023.
- **Be original!** Write about and focus on what makes you stand out. If you are making an impact on your community – however big or small – be proud to say so.
- **Use real world examples!** Share examples from your work to highlight how you meet the selection criteria.
- **Share your impact and goals!** Show how the Fellowship will help you apply leadership skills and include a clear outline of your goals and plans after returning home from the Fellowship.

mwfellows.info/applytips

Note on Plagiarism

- Plagiarism means **taking someone else's work or ideas** and presenting them as your own. **Plagiarism is strictly forbidden**, and those who plagiarize their application materials **will be disqualified**.
- To avoid disqualification:
 - Use your own words and ideas
 - Avoid cut and paste
 - Do not use wording from other applicants or Alumni
 - Credit your sources

The U.S. Department of State and IREX will be checking all applications for plagiarism. For more information, please visit Plagiarism.org.



Application Timeline

- **August 15:** Application opens
- **September 12:** Application closes
- **November 2023 – January 2024:** Semi-finalists interviewed by local U.S. embassies
- **Late March 2024:** Applicants notified
- **May 2024:** Visa processing and pre-Fellowship orientations for Finalists
- **June 2024:** Fellowship begins

Impact and Alumni Stories



Next Steps

Visit the Fellowship website to learn more: mwfellows.info/apply

Follow the Fellowship on social media:

- *Facebook:* facebook.com/MandelaWashingtonFellowship
- *Twitter:* @WashFellowship / twitter.com/WashFellowship
- *Instagram:* @MandelaWashFellowship / instagram.com/MandelaWashFellowship
- *LinkedIn:* linkedin.com/company/mandela-washington-fellowship/

Mark your calendars with key application dates:

- Application Opens: August 15, 2023
- Application Closes: September 12, 2023

U.S. Embassy Point of Contact:

E-mail: MaputoExchangePrograms@state.gov; **Phone:** +258 84 095 8000



Questions?